



# Facts About: Nonstructural Environmental Site Design Practices

## Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Nonstructural best management practices (BMPs) are environmental site design practices that combine relatively simple features, grading and landscaping, to divert runoff into vegetated areas and away from conventional storm drain systems. Runoff is conveyed as sheet flow into these areas where it can soak into or filter over the ground, decreasing the runoff volume and pollutants that flow into receiving waters.

### Disconnection of runoff and similar nonstructural BMPs

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**Rooftop disconnection** involves directing runoff flow from downspouts to nearby natural areas for infiltration.

**Non-rooftop disconnection** involves directing flow from impervious surfaces like driveways and small parking lots to nearby natural areas for infiltration.

**Sheetflow to conservation areas** treats runoff from developed land by directing it to nearby natural areas. Areas with native plants and grasses or forest areas provide natural infiltration of stormwater runoff.



*Disconnection of rooftop runoff*



*Disconnection of non-rooftop runoff*

### Design Variants

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- Disconnection of rooftop runoff
- Disconnection of non-rooftop runoff
- Sheetflow to conservation area

## Pollutant Removal Efficiencies

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- Sediments 80%
- Phosphorus 66%
- Nitrogen 56% (as part of a system of environmental site design practices)



*Sheetflow to conservation areas*

## More Information

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For information on specific design criteria, go to Maryland's Stormwater Design Manual:  
[mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/StormwaterManagementProgram/Pages/stormwater\\_design.aspx](http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/StormwaterManagementProgram/Pages/stormwater_design.aspx)